

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
APPLICATION NO. 09/437,246
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q56708

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-53 are all the claims pending in the application.


The new independent claim recites that a distance from a part of said valve device which first contacts to the ink supply needle when the needle inserts into said ink supply port to a part of said packing member which engages with the ink supply needle is longer than a distance between a tip end of the ink supply needle and a part of the ink supply needle which first contacts to the packing member when the ink cartridge is coupled to the printing apparatus. In accordance with this feature, the valve device closes and opens an ink channel only while the ink supply needle is kept being sealed by the packing member, a feature respectfully submitted to distinguish over the prior art. Thus, the ink cartridge can effectively provide ink to a print head through the ink supply needle while preventing ink leak in the ink supply port. This feature is supported by Figures 4(a) and (b), and also the figure's accompanying descriptions (Line 6, Page 25 to Line 8, Page 26) of the specification.

Favorable action on this application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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